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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,241	09/15/2004	Pietro Armanini	120364	5324

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EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/501,241	Applicant(s) ARMANINI ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark J. Beauchaine	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/12/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application Number EP 0.967.581 A2 by Katou et al (hereinafter "Katou") published 29 December 1999. The bill machine disclosed by Katou incorporates deposit withdrawal port 2, transport path 501, discriminating unit 3, recycle box 8, temporary storage box 4 and reject box 9 that read on the Applicant's input and output, transport system, detection system, recycling store, recirculation store and unfit bill store, respectively. Furthermore, said temporary storage box 4 of Katou accepts bills found to be fit by discriminating unit 3 and ultimately discharges said bills for recirculation upon a subsequent transaction (page 5, lines 24 plus). Still further, Katou discloses the step of transporting bills from temporary storage box 4 to discriminating

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unit 3, and upon the generation of a bill rejection, said bill is transported to reject box 9 (page 8, lines 49 plus).

Although Katou fails to disclose the step of transporting bills to temporary box 4 (*cf.* Applicant's recirculation store) based upon a determination that said bills are unfit for use in recycle box 8 (*cf.* Applicant's recycling store), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to distribute bills to the recycle box 8, temporary box 4 and reject box 9 based upon various levels of fitness of said bills to cause unacceptable bills to be taken out of circulation and to cause useable bills of high quality to be reused by said bill machine, and for useable bills of low quality to be transported out of said machine into circulation rather than be used again by said machine and create a possibility of jamming said machine.

Regarding claims 4 and 7, the recycle box 8 of Katou is shown to be a self-contained cassette (see Figure 3). Such interchangeable cassettes used in bill apparatus are well known in the art and are commonly known by one of ordinary skill to be removable, and interchangeable with other bill machines, to provide apparatus operators with an effective means of inserting and withdrawing stacks of money to and from said apparatus to maintain said machines with appropriate amounts of currency.

Regarding claims 5, 6 and 9, the use of bins (claims 5 and 6) and secure housings (claims 9) in bill machines are common means of securely containing bills processed by said machines and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide an effective means of securely containing bills processed.

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Regarding claim 8, Katou further discloses discriminating unit 3 as discriminating bills by type (page 8, lines 39 plus) which indicates the process of denominating bills.

Regarding claim 10 Katou further disclose withdrawal box 7 that reads on the Applicant's output store. Furthermore, said withdrawal box 7 is in direct communication with the discriminating unit 3 via transportation path 501 (page 4, lines 34 plus).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katou as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 6,128,402 by Jones et al (hereinafter "Jones"). Although Katou fails to disclose the step of non-genuine bills being returned to the deposit withdrawal port 2, the operation of returning counterfeit bills to a user is well known in the currency apparatus art. Jones teaches a currency processing system that accepts bills via bill deposit receptacle 1 and scans said bills via module 8. "When a bill cannot be recognized . . . the unidentified bill [is directed] to the return slot 2 so that it can be removed from the machine by the customer."

Furthermore, "[b]ills that are detected to be counterfeit are treated in the same manner as the unrecognized bills." (Column 8, lines 46 plus.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate the counterfeit bill return feature of Jones into the bill machine of Katou to provide an effective means of preventing counterfeit bills from being processed by said machine and cheating the machine owner of subsequent users of said machine.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katou as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,625,870 by Nao et al (hereinafter "Nao"). Although Katou fails to disclose the deposit withdrawal port 2 as having separate openings, the use of individual deposit and return openings in currency processing apparatus is well known in the art. Nao teaches a bill handling apparatus that incorporates bill insertion opening 6 and bill disbursing opening 3 that read on the Applicant's input and output openings, respectively. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate the separate openings of Nao into the bill machine of Katou to provide an effective means of allowing a user to both deposit and receive bills simultaneously.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katou as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,587,408 by Watanabe (hereinafter "Watanabe"). Although Katou fails to disclose the bill machine as a teller assist machine, the use of currency machines to assist tellers is well known in the art. Watanabe teaches a currency apparatus 1 that is "disposed between a pair of tables 2 for a couple of teller's use." (See column 2, lines 63 plus and Figure 1.) Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to install the bill machine of Katou into a bank setting to assist a teller in processing currency during bank operation.

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Patent Application Publication Number US 2002/0003163 A1 published 10 January 2002 because of its reject box 18,

Patent Number US 6,942,207 B2 by Katou et al because of its reject box 60,

Patent Number 5,553,320 by Matsuura et al because of its recycle box 23, and

Patent Number 4,795,889 by Matuura et al because of its cashbox 131.

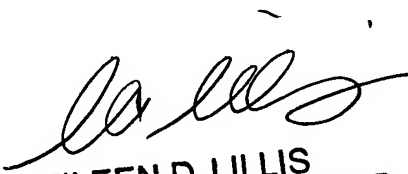
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571)272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mjb



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